

Plans for the present church structure were drawn by architect William East and built by John S. Drumm at a cost of \$4,800 according to the contract signed on July 8, 1899. On December 17th of that year, the Rt. Reverend Leander Scherr, O.S.B., Archabbott, St. Vincent Archabbey of Latrobe, dedicated the church. It was served by the Benedictine Fathers of St. Vincent Archabbey until 1984 and since then by the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

The strength of our great nation comes not from decisions made in Washington, but from the enduring community strength, family commitments and individual ideals to which our house of worship provided the central underpinnings. The Church of the Holy Cross has been a part of that national strength for one hundred years; an integral factor in the growth of our nation and our region of Pennsylvania.

It is an honor for me to recognize the continuing role of the Church of the Holy Cross, of the church's twenty-fifth pastor, Father David J. Arseneault, and the individuals in the Parish that have made the Church of the Holy Cross endure for 100 years.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL (RETIRED) LAVERN E. WEBER

HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to a great American, former Adjutant General of Oklahoma, previous Director of the Army National Guard, prior Chief of the National Guard Bureau and past Executive Director of the National Guard Association of the United States.

Lieutenant General Weber, a native of Lone Wolf, Oklahoma, was the first Three-Star General to head the National Guard Bureau. He held that post from August 1974 until August

1982. He continued his service at United States Forces Command until his retirement on June 30, 1984, which concluded 42 years of military service with the United States Marine Corps, the Marine Corps Reserve and the Army National Guard.

Lieutenant General Weber served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. After the war, he joined the Oklahoma National Guard's 45th infantry division. His unit was called to active duty September 1950 and then Captain Weber was soon serving as a Company Commander, and later the Operations and Training Officer. During a combat tour in Korea, he was promoted to the rank of Major a month before his release from active duty in June 1952 when he returned to National Guard Status in the Oklahoma National Guard.

He graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in December 1955 and was assigned as assistant intelligence officer, 45th Infantry Division. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on May 15, 1959, and in April 1961 was assigned as Chief of Personnel, 45th Infantry Division, and served in that position until November 1964. He became Chief of Staff, 45th Infantry Division with his promotion to Colonel on November 18, 1964.

On March 8, 1965, he was promoted to Major General, concurrent with his appointment as the Adjutant General of Oklahoma. He served in that position until his appointment as Director of the Army National Guard, in October 1971.

On June 29, 1979, the Chief of Staff U.S. Army promoted him to Lieutenant General, the grade at which he would retire in 1984. He was appointed as the full-time Executive Director of NGAUS effective July 1, 1984. In the past few years, he had been a consultant on national defense matters.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of and respect for this great American—Lieutenant General Lavern Weber.

SALUTING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER JOHN MCGUIRE

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask my colleagues today to join me in recognizing the public service record of one of our own—a recently-retired employee of the House of Representatives, a member of my staff, John McGuire.

Although John has left public service and gone on to another stage in life in which he now focuses his energy entirely on family and friendly pursuits, he has left behind a record of admirable service.

Over the course of his professional career, and in addition to his time on my staff, he has brought great credit to the federal government. He has helped me understand the importance of our debt to veterans and he has excelled at constituent service in general.

A combat U.S. Marine veteran, John was indeed a very special liaison for me with the community of veterans who live in Central New York. But his camaraderie with those who have served our nation never limited his reach. For many Central New Yorkers, John has been the federal government's helping hand.

We who count ourselves among his friends are proud of his natural tendency to open his door to others in hours of need. His empathy has been matched only by his skills, his concern matched only by his optimism, and his value as an employee matched only by the good he does for others who are his friends.

The United States of America, the greatest country on earth, is strengthened by patriots and civil servants like John McGuire. Thank God for that. I join others of his admirers in recognizing his contributions and thanking him for his selfless dedication to principle and public service.